

Pastors

Rev. Leslie Wood

Summer has arrived. Does that mean things are slowing down a bit? In some ways, yes. In some ways...not so much.

We are exceedingly happy and blessed to welcome Pam Day as FUMC's new office manager. She has integrated smoothly and quickly; she's a quick learner and is so gracious and kind to everyone who comes in the office. We are blessed to have her. Did you know that Pam leads the centering prayer group on Wednesdays?

SPRC continues to work to review and reshape the employment contract and job description for Desiree Aragon. After her first six months of her contract, managing the very chaotic original structure (i.e., juggling support of three different children's ministries – FUMC, TUMC & Union), it has become apparent that a change needs to be made if she is going to continue on staff in the fall. We sincerely hope that our three ministries can figure out the best structure moving forward, for Desiree brings a fresh, vibrant and creative approach to children's ministries that we didn't even know we needed.

We were happy to welcome new members to FUMC on June 8th. Wyatt Sanderson was one of "Matthew's" youths and requested to join FUMC after he graduated from high school in May. Julio, Laura, Bailey & Will Aleman moved to Loveland from Tyler, TX last year and are thrilled to have found FUMC. They look forward to becoming involved in various ministries and missions that FUMC offers.

Recently, two gentlemen, Albert Solis and John Lahmeyer, have expressed interest in joining FUMC. I will be meeting with them soon. Please extend a warm welcome to them when you have a chance to meet them.

We continue to invite increased giving to address the budget shortfall before the October charge conference and the subsequent deadline to make staffing and payroll budgeting decisions. The current sermon series, Six Stone Jars, is the kick-off to this year's – early – stewardship campaign. The Stewardship Committee will be introducing other campaign steps this month.

I requested a snapshot of increased giving from Cindy Utley since our congregational meetings and our donors' generous gift. She graciously provided an educated guesstimate. Rather than try to summarize her information, I've pasted her email report below for your review.

The word is getting out. God is opening doors. Even as the energy and activity around the church has picked up as the LPS teachers are in and out getting their space ready for the school year launch in August, we continue to get inquiries about using our space from outside individuals and groups. In addition to Braver Angels, who have used Coy Hall multiple times for their workshops and debates, UCHealth's Aspen Club is holding regular health-related classes at the church. Recently we've had an inquiry by a conflict management coach about leasing space for a workshop. We've also been contact by Wave of Hope Homeschool Enrichment, an in-person homeschool support center based out of Greeley. They are looking for space to hold classes all day on Fridays during the school year. We are in contact with both businesses about their needs and to assess whether we have space to accommodate them.

As a part of TUMC's weeklong 100th anniversary, our new Bishop Kristen Stoneking will be preaching at TUMC for the worship service on August 31st. FUMC has been invited by TUMC to make that day a UMC community celebration day. Knowing that we will *likely* need to have a worship service simultaneously at FUMC (rather than all of us moving over to TUMC for that Sunday, for various reasons) I am working with Rev. Bryson, TUMC's tech support guy (Tony) and Ryan to figure out the logistics of live broadcasting the Bishop's sermon from TUMC as a part of the worship service at FUMC. Following worship, we will gather at FUMC for a reception for the Bishop. This is a true test of collaborative, high tech worship!

Congratulations to Matthew, who began his first day as Pastor Matthew at Spirit of Hope UMC in Englewood this morning, July 6th. He will continue his good work as FUMC's youth coordinator this year as well.

Cindy Utley's educated guesstimate on increased giving:

Here are my guesstimates for giving for April, May and June. As I mentioned before only 5 people have told me that they are contributing extra. The other numbers I will explain below.

These figures are a little low. Karen is out and I do not have the print out for the EFT/Paypal payments for June. Once I get them I can update the numbers so they will be a little higher than what I am reporting now.

1. For the year 2025 January - June we are ahead from 2024 for the same time period by \$30,681. If we subtract the anonymous donor then it is \$7,081.
2. Month of April 2025 giving was \$23,581 higher than in 2024.
3. Month of May 2025 giving was \$47,119 higher than in 2024 (amount is \$28,619 more subtracting money given from our Donor).
4. Month of June 2025 giving is \$7,065 higher than in 2024 (this will be more when I add the EFT/Paypal payments).

So Far \$17,675 has been over the pledged amount for January - June. Once again this is a guesstimate since I am not sure if people are paying extra or paying ahead for the summer.

For those who regularly give but don't pledge for January - June we are ahead \$7,685 from the same time frame as last year.

Rev. Lee Anderson Harris is on much needed Sabbatical leave. Read her message in the latest 'Insight' if you haven't already. A poem she included is part of our closing prayer.

Pastor Matthew/Youth Ministries Coordinator

Staff

Financial Secretary ~ Cindy Utley
Church Treasurer ~ Karen Lumpkin
Music Coordinator ~ Kathryn Peiffer
Choir Director ~ Nicole Ceciliani
Family Outreach Chair ~
Bell Choir Director ~ Susan Harding

Committees

Staff Parish ~ John Morgan

Finance ~ Charlie Bouchard

You all received the Finance monthly summary a couple of weeks ago. Based on this report, our situation has improved from earlier projections. However, we are headed into the lean months of summer. We are working on ways to track whether there has been an increase in giving after our all church meetings, but do not have an accurate way to do that yet. The report shows income almost \$100,000 more than budget. It is important to keep in mind that this number reflects: \$18,500 from the 57th street earnings that was not in the budget \$ Income from our anonymous donor \$ Normal stronger first 5 months giving. The challenge that Finance would like to keep front and center in everyone's mind is that our projected budget shortfall (after deducting for the \$18k 57th street funds) is \$123,000. **Our donor is making up for 1/2 of that number for 2025 and 2026. Our hope is that the church as a whole can make up the other half of the \$60k needed.** We are working with Stewardship to emphasize that point. Thank you for continuing to help spread that message. Charlie

Trustees ~ Debbie Tikka

Abiding Memorials ~ Betty Hill ~ No report this month

Stewardship ~ John Kindred

The Stewardship Committee was charged by the Church Council to hold a campaign to increase giving for the 2025 budget and the also hold the annual campaign for 2026 at the last Church Council meeting. Stewardship met and decided to combine the two campaigns into one campaign which will be held in July and August. The campaign will have an announcement in church, communication by paper and video about the earlier than normal campaign. It will include a church wide email which will allow the members to make any increased giving in 2025 and their pledge for 2026. Also, there will be an option to receive future FUMC financial statements by email.

Missions and Social Concerns ~ Barry Wehrle

Our Easter offering totaled \$5729.00. Two thirds of this amount was given to UMCOR for national and international relief work. The remaining third was given to the Loveland Community Kitchen.

Truscott Teachers' meal – May 16. With Betsy Elliott's guidance and hard work, several congregation members helped prepare and provide a very nice end of the school year dinner for the teachers and staff at Truscott. As always, this was received with gratitude. As a church, we continue to show our appreciation for the good work done at Truscott Elementary.

We have had two Mission Fellowship Meals thus far. These have been well attended with 45-50 people present. We have raised \$880.00 for our church's mission outreach. We have not distributed any of this amount to date. On Wednesday, July 30 we will have our third one. It will be served at 5:30 p.m. This month's menu will be a summer-perfect fruit salad, roasted chicken, rosemary potato medley, gravy and ice cream for dessert! Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 10 & under. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings and online.

Our Committee has committed to participating in two Habitat "Faith Builds." The first one is Saturday, July 26th, 7:30am-2:30pm to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. No construction experience necessary. FUMC will provide devotions at the beginning of the day and will serve lunch. Sign up at our Volunteer Hub or online.

A major new project is in the planning stage. In an effort to further help Truscott School and to bring together people from Trinity UMC and First UMC, we are going to beautify and enhance the Truscott school community garden. This project will take place at the end of August and early September. Currently, Pastor Bryson of TUMC is coordinating with people at the school to plan for this effort. More about this will be known in the near future.

Marketing & Outreach ~ Andrea Ortega

Our church was proud to have a booth at Loveland Community Pride, where we handed out free popcorn and water to help everyone stay cool and refreshed. We were joined by our friends from All Saints Episcopal Church and Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation, along with many other wonderful groups and businesses. It was heartwarming to hear visitors share how glad they were to see us there—many even mentioned personal connections to the Methodist Church. Despite the heat, the day was filled with joy, laughter and fun. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this day possible and helped us show God's love through hospitality and presence.

Our 2nd year as host for Loveland's Community Night Out was fun! We welcomed our neighbors for some free ice cream, a bounce house and art project for the kids. Although turnout was lower than last year, we had fun riding in the cherry picker and visiting with officers, first responders and other Loveland personnel that stopped by. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen!

We printed 10 Do Unto Others yard signs, which are part of the Kansas Resurrection UMCs' campaign for kindness, and all but 2 have been purchased!

Among posting on Facebook and sharing with large Loveland Facebook groups, Marketing has been testing the ads on Facebook. For \$10-\$30 a group can reach a significant number of people within a predefined mile radius.

This resulted in a larger than ever Easter crowd and we hope this can be a tool to help other church events or groups spread the word in our community.

Membership Secretary ~ Janeen Anderson

Safety and Security ~

UM Foundation ~ Mike Westbrook